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Ref. T2/4.1.3

MSC/Circ.927  
MEPC/Circ.359  
21 July 1999

**DOCUMENTS OF COMPLIANCE ISSUED UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF THE  
INTERNATIONAL SAFETY MANAGEMENT (ISM) CODE**

1 The Maritime Safety Committee, at its seventy-first session (19 to 28 May 1999) and the Marine Environment Protection Committee, at its forty-third session (28 June to 2 July 1999), considered the requirement in paragraph 13.3 of the ISM Code for a copy of the company's Document of Compliance (DOC) to be placed on board in order that the Master, if so asked, may produce it for verification.

2 The Committees agreed that such a copy need not be an authenticated or certified copy, as such a requirement might cause unnecessary administrative burdens on all parties involved. The Committees also agreed that there is nothing in the ISM Code or in SOLAS 1974, as amended, which prevents an Administration from requiring ships entitled to fly its flag to carry on board an authenticated or certified copy of the DOC.

3 Nothing in paragraph 2 above precludes the Administration or port State Authority from taking independent measures to verify the veracity of the copy of the DOC on board where there are clear grounds of non-compliance with the ISM Code.

4 Member Governments are invited to bring this clarification to the notice of all parties concerned.

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